

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is being amended to incorporate the features of previously presented claims 2 and 3, claims 2 and 3 are accordingly being canceled, the dependency of claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 are being amended accordingly, and the terminology of claim 8 is being amended to ensure clear antecedent basis. The addition of "new matter" has been scrupulously avoided. Claims 1 and 4-8 remain in this application.

Claims 1-2, as previously presented, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Dunk (U.S. Patent 4,645,593), and claims 1-8, as previously presented, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly obvious over any one of Desjoyaux (U.S. Patent 5,879,547) or Desjoyaux (U.S. Patent 6,138,294) or FR 2831581, in view of the same Dunk reference. These rejections, to the extent that they are deemed applicable to the claims as now presented, are respectfully but most strenuously traversed.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. The Dunk patent discloses a filter/pump connection system with the module 12 containing a connecting part with a pair of internal conduits 43 and 46 having flattened upper and lower portions. Claim 1 as amended includes conduits which include a pair of opposed thin flat connection members whereas Dunk employs rounded end pipes which are angled at 90° to the line of the conduit. No prior art of record teaches or suggests the claimed differences.

The present Amendment is fully consistent with amendments previously suggested by the Examiner.

For all of the above reasons, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

If it would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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